



The relationship between temperature and ambulance response calls for heat-related illness in Toronto, Ontario, 2005

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Concern over the adverse effects of heat on human health has led to numerous studies assessing the relationship between heat and mortality. Few studies have quantified the impact of heat on morbidity, including ambulance response calls. This study describes the association between temperature and ambulance response calls for heat-related illness (HRI) in Toronto, Ontario, Canada during the summer of 2005. **METHODS:** Data sources included daily temperature, relative humidity and humidex information from Environment Canada, and Medical Priority Dispatch System data from Toronto Emergency Medical Services. Time series and regression analyses were used to examine the relationship between daily temperature and ambulance response calls for HRI during the summer (1 June to 31 August) of 2005. **RESULTS:** In 2005, there were 201 ambulance response calls for HRI. On average, for every one degree increase in maximum temperature (degrees C) there was a 29% increase in ambulance response calls for HRI (p

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Resource Description

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Meteorological Factors, Temperature

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Freshwater, Urban

Geographic Location:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Injury, Other Health Impact

Other Health Impact: heat-related illnesses

Intervention: 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified